

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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O 051045Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8077
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1167

E.O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK
SUBJ: RHODESIA: TRAVEL AND MEETING PLANS

1. AS DEPARTMENT IS PROBABLY AWARE BY NOW, NKOMO PROPOSED TO BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER HERE THAT HE TRAVEL TO MAPUTO ON COMMERCIAL FLIGHT LEAVING LUSAKA THURSDAY; GRAHAM AND I WOULD MEET HIM AND MUGABE IN MAPUTO AFTER THAT (IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW LONG NKOMO NEEDS FOR MEETINGS WITH MUGABE BEFORE THEY ARE READY TO SEE US). NKOMO WANTS AT LEAST TWO DAYS OF PF MEETINGS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND MUGABE BEFORE THE MALTA II CONFERENCE. HE WILL ASK PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO PROVIDE A PLANE TO BRING MUGABE AND HIS GROUP TO LUSAKA ON THE TWELFTH OF APRIL (THE FIRST COMMERCIAL FLIGHT IS THE THIRTEENTH) IN ORDER THAT THESE TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS CAN TAKE PLACE ON THE THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH PERMITTING THE PF TO BE READY FOR MALTA II ON THE FIFTEENTH. NKOMO HOPES THAT SECRETARY VANCE WILL BE ABLE TO REMAIN AT THE MALTA II MEETING THROUGH THE SEVENTEENTH. SINCE THE PF WILL BE MEETING TOGETHER ON THE THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH IN LUSAKA, NKOMO ALSO SUGGESTED THAT MALTA II BE HELD IN LUSAKA INSTEAD OF DAR.

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2. I ASSUME THAT WASHINGTON AND LONDON ARE ANXIOUS THAT GRAHAM AND I CONCLUDE OUR CONSULTATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IF WE ARE TO TRAVEL FROM MAPUTO TO SALISBURY IN TIME TO MEET WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THERE BEFORE THE WEEKEND, WE WILL NEED TO MAKE THAT TRIP AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. THIS WILL BE DIFFICULT IF WE HAVE TO GO VIA THE ATTACHE AIRCRAFT FROM MAPUTO TO JOHANNESBURG, THEN TRANSFER TO A COMMERCIAL PLANE

THERE. I KNOW THAT IT HAS BEEN A STANDARD RULE THAT THE ATTACHE PLANE SHOULD NOT TRAVEL INSIDE RHODESIA, AND I UNDERSTAND THE REASONS WHY THAT HAS BEEN POLICY IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, WITH THE INCREASING FREQUENCY OF OFFICIAL LEVEL NEGOTIATING TEAM VISITS TO SALISBURY, AT LEAST TWO RECENT VISITS THERE BY UK/US OFFICIAL PARTIES ON BRITISH MILITARY AIRCRAFT (AUGUST 31, 1977 IN OWEN'S PLANE AND OCTOBER 1977 IN CARVER'S C130), THE PROSPECT OF A POSSIBLE VISIT BY SECRETARY VANCE FOLLOWING VISITS BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND MYSELF, I WONDER WHETHER THERE IS A GOOD POLITICAL REASON WHY WE SHOULD NOT USE THE ATTACHE AIRCRAFT FOR SUCH VISITS INSIDE RHODESIA.

3. FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO WARN ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES OF ANY MEETING ON THE ZAMBIA-RHODESIA BORDER WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE SECRETARY. AS A RESULT OF THE UNUSUALLY HEAVY RAINY SEASON, THE ROAD BETWEEN LUSAKA AND LIVINGSTONE HAS BEEN BADLY DAMAGED AND PART OF IT IS QUITE MUDDY. THUS SURFACE TRANSPORTATION WOULD INVOLVE A DIFFICULT SIX TO EIGHT HOUR TRIP. FURTHER, LIVINGSTONE AIRSTRIP WILL NOT TAKE 707'S. COMMUNICATIONS IN LIVINGSTONE OF COURSE WOULD HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED FROM SCRATCH. THE HOTEL IS REASONABLY COMFORTABLE BUT SUPPLIES ARE AT A MINIMUM, INCLUDING FOOD, REFRESHMENTS ETC. LOW

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